

The World in Depth

UNITED STATES

Major impact expected from Carter appointments

Two appointments made within hours of each other by US President Jimmy Carter last week will have a major impact on US policy at home and abroad. James Schlesinger (48), an economist considered to be one of the sharpest brains in Washington, returns to cabinet rank as the Administration's energy czar and Admiral Stansfield Turner becomes supreme head of all American intelligence services.

With a staff of 20 000 and a budget of R87 milliard, Schlesinger will manage the ambitious energy programme proposed by the Administration last April that will, in Carter's words, "reduce the impact of inevitable shortages of natural gas, oil and other sources of energy". It is 21 months since Schlesinger was dismissed as Secretary of Defence by former president Gerald Ford. He was appointed to the defence post in June 1973, in the middle of the

sentatives rejected Republican bids to ensure full liberalisation of natural gas prices, backed by representatives of the producer states. The House made a concession to the producers, however, by broadening the definition of "newly discovered" gas.

Turner, one of Carter's classmates at the naval academy in Annapolis, will now have control of the finances and activities of the various intelligence branches that previously came under several different departments, including defence and the treasury. The re-organisation will also enable the National Security Council (NSC) to give more effective guidance than in the past to the intelligence services, the ramifications of which are worldwide. A special committee headed by Turner is to be established within the NSC to lay down the priority goals of the various intelligence agencies.



Turner (left) and Schlesinger: intelligence and energy

Watergate crisis, having been previously head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for five months and for two years chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. Confirmation of Schlesinger's appointment as America's first Secretary of Energy was accorded by the Senate without debate and with acclamation.

On the energy front Carter scored another significant victory when the House of Repre-